

## **2010 Missouri Teaming With Wildlife Mini-Grant Program Request for Proposals**

Deadline: March 31, 2010

Missouri's Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) Coalition is a group of over 250 organizations and businesses supportive of additional federal funding for fish, forest and wildlife conservation and related education and outdoor recreation. Part of a larger, nationwide effort, TWW Coalition members also support implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans – in Missouri, the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy (CWS).

Missouri's CWS promotes the use of partnerships to increase conservation efforts for healthy habitats in priority places – Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs). The TWW Mini-Grant Program seeks to involve more conservation organizations and businesses in implementing Missouri's CWS. Through funding start-up projects, we hope that the Missouri TWW Coalition will become an even stronger voice for increased conservation funding, ready to help spend additional funds when a dedicated federal funding source is realized.

See also the “Additional Background Information” page attached to this announcement.

**Purpose:** To provide initial funding for TWW Coalition organizations to help implement Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy. These start-up funds are intended to kick-start activities that will continue into the future.

**Grant Awards:** The Conservation Federation of Missouri will provide \$25,000 for the Teaming With Wildlife Mini-Grants Program in 2010. Individual grant awards are available up to a maximum of \$2,500. Matching funds (including partner financial contributions and in-kind donations – volunteer time, etc.) are encouraged but not required. Funds must be spent within one year (May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011). Grantees will be required to submit a status update by December 31, 2010 and a brief accomplishment report by May 15, 2011.

### **Eligibility:**

- State and Federal agencies are not eligible for this funding source, but can work with another organization to submit a proposal.
- Any organization, business, or volunteer group can apply. Teaming With Wildlife Coalition member groups will be given preference. If you are not yet a TWW member, fill out the brief form at [www.teaming.com/action](http://www.teaming.com/action). View the Missouri TWW Coalition list at [www.confedmo.org/teaming](http://www.confedmo.org/teaming).
- Funding must be used to further efforts within a Conservation Opportunity Area – including COAs with an existing action plan and those without. (See last page for more details.)

**Funds may be used for a variety of projects that build the capacity of COA stakeholder teams to promote the conservation of healthy habitats within a COA. Projects will likely fall within one of the following categories:**

1. Host one or more COA partnership meetings
  - Gather local partners/stakeholders to discuss the importance of this COA to all wildlife and how partners can work together to help conserve and manage key habitats. Develop a draft action plan.
  - If a COA team already exists, work to bring in new partners or host a meeting on a specific topic.
  - Work as a COA team to prioritize specific, fundable projects; outline how you will accomplish these projects.
  
2. Conduct a habitat restoration/management project in a COA
  - Purchase equipment or materials
  - Reimburse volunteers for mileage/travel expenses
  - Provide volunteer training
  - Communicate with landowners/community members the importance of the area and best management practices

**Priority will be given to projects that:**

- Bring in partners that have had little or no involvement with implementation of Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy to date
- Grow partnerships in currently inactive COAs (Contact the Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator for the current level of known activity in your COA.)
- Fulfill a gap in protecting all wildlife
- Kick-start longer term activities
- Demonstrate matching funds (preferred but not required)

**Proposal format and requirements:**

Grant applications are limited to two pages (one-inch margins, 12 pt font; page limit includes maps, budget and contact information). Use the following format for grant applications:

1. Title of Project
  
2. Organization requesting funds and contact information: Provide contact information (name, title, address, phone, e-mail).
  
3. Purpose of Grant: Clearly define the goals of the project
  
4. Targeted Conservation Opportunity Area(s): Identify which COA(s) will benefit from this project.

5. Partners. List partners involved with this project. (We're looking at quality of partner involvement more than quantity of partners).
6. Project Description: Give a description of project activities and associated timeline.
7. Grant Request Amount: Provide a brief budget that describes the proposed use of funds within categories (ex. Meals for an evening meeting; reimbursement for travel time). Include any matching funds and in-kind contributions.

### **Proposal Ranking:**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by the Teaming With Wildlife Steering Committee and based on the following criteria (100 points possible) and through consensus by the committee.

- Project brings in new partners (20 points)
- Likelihood that project kick-starts longer term COA activities (20 points)
- Feasibility and clarity of project (20 Points)
- Takes place in a COA without an active COA team (20 points)
- Fulfills a current gap in conserving or managing all wildlife in the COA (10 points)
- Demonstrates matching funds or in-kind donations (10 points)

### **Proposal Deadline:**

Proposals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **March 31, 2010**. No late proposals will be accepted. Send a MS Word (.doc) or .pdf file via e-mail or two (2) printed copies of the grant proposal to:

Amy Buechler  
Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator  
Conservation Federation of Missouri  
728 West Main  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
[abuechler@confedmo.org](mailto:abuechler@confedmo.org)  
800-575-2322

Applicants will be notified of their application status by April 30, 2010. Checks will be delivered within 2 weeks of receiving a signed contract.

### **Assistance and questions**

Grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator (contact information above) prior to drafting or submitting an application to discuss a potential project and the application requirements.

## **Additional Background Information Teaming With Wildlife Mini-grant Program**

### **What is the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy?**

Each state in the nation was required to develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy (CWS) by October 2005 in order to continue receiving State Wildlife Grant funds. Many conservation partners came together to develop Missouri's CWS. One outcome of this process was the creation of Conservation Opportunity Areas.

Learn more at <http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/missouri.html>.

### **What is a Conservation Opportunity Area (COA)?**

COAs are specific geographies selected by the conservation community of Missouri as the best places to work together to conserve healthy habitats. Knowing that we can't conserve every place in the state, COAs provide a way to focus our efforts and funding.

Learn more at <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/cws/coa/>.

### **Where are COAs?**

View the COA map at <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/cws/coa/>. All areas in orange are COAs. For more details about specific locations and why the area was chosen as a COA, contact Amy Buechler, Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator, 800-575-2322, [abuechler@confedmo.org](mailto:abuechler@confedmo.org).

### **What is the difference between a COA within an action plan and one without?**

Currently, 36 COAs have action plans – written documents that explain why a COA is important. Action plans can be accessed by clicking on the numbers of the online COA map (<http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/cws/coa/>). COAs with action plans have a COA team that has met at least once to determine general conservation strategies. COAs without action plans are not any less important – they just have not had a group of people clarify the conservation vision.

### **What is a COA team?**

A group of conservation partners that represent a COA. The COA team determines priority conservation actions, then seeks funding and resources to accomplish these actions. Some COAs have currently active teams; many do not. Check with the Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator to determine the activity level of a specific COA.

### **What is the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) Coalition?**

A national coalition of businesses and organizations that support additional funding for fish, forest and wildlife conservation and related education and outdoor recreation. In Missouri, more than 250 organizations and businesses belong to the coalition. The TWW Coalition also supports implementation of Missouri's CWS. Learn more at [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com) and [www.confedmo.org/teaming](http://www.confedmo.org/teaming).